

INVENTORY OF SEEDS AND PLANTS IMPORTED BY THE OFFICE OF FOREIGN SEED AND PLANT INTRO- DUCTION DURING THE PERIOD FROM JANUARY 1 TO MARCH 31, 1922 (NO. 70; NOS. 54677 TO 54968).

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT.

Although a small inventory, as inventories go, this seventieth one has many new plants which are worthy of mention.

The ka-á he-é (*Stevia rebaudiana*, No. 54677) of Paraguay seems to merit serious consideration as a new source of sweetening, particularly for diabetics, since its glucosid has a sweetening power 150 to 200 times greater than that of sugar. The fact that it has never been cultivated should not deter us from attempting its culture, and since it grows somewhat like our ironweeds it might be harvested by machinery. Glucosids differ from sugars in that they are not foods.

The jaragua grass from Brazil (*Cymbopogon rufus*, No. 54679) is a tall, leafy bunch-grass which can be grazed or cut for hay. It is already being extensively tried in southern Florida.

The molasses grass (*Melinis minutiflora*, No. 54680) of Brazil, one of the best forage grasses of that country, appears to have a great future on the sandy lands of Florida. At first, cattle there refused to eat it, but it has been learned that they were turned out to pasture on it after it had become old and coarse. When this grass is young, cattle are very fond of it.

The chirimoriñon (*Annona* sp., No. 54682) according to H. Pittier, of Caracas, is by far the most delicious of the anonas, and it may become another delicate fruit for southern Florida and our island possessions.

Mesua ferrea (No. 54687), a large, handsome tropical tree with blood-red young foliage, large white scented flowers, and seeds which yield a perfumed oil, may easily add another glory to the tropical vegetation of southern Florida.

Solanum pierreanum (No. 54695), the olombé of French Equatorial Africa, whose fire-red fruits the size of walnuts are eaten by the Pahouins, or natives of Gabon colony, might possibly be crossed with the tomato.

The chilacayote (*Cucurbita ficifolia*, No. 54700), a member of the cucumber family from Mexico, the fruits of which resemble small watermelons and are used for pie and for making conserves, may be well worth growing in the vegetable gardens of the South.

Eugenia klotzschiana (No. 54702), the pera do campo, is a pear-shaped fruit which was first featured by Dorsett and Popenoe in their introductions from Brazil because of its most unusual fragrance,